WIGMORE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Leintwardine

February 28th. 1899

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit to you my Annual Report for the year ending December 31st. 1898.

I am glad to say that I have a favourable Report to lay before you. There has been a great deal of important sanitary work done in your District during the year 1898. The freedom of the District from epidemic outbreaks is rather remarkable but the amount of pains taken and the success obtained should be judged by the absence of a record of cases and not by the reverse.

The following Table shows certain statistics of mortality during the Year 1898.

Deaths per 1,000 of population	1898	14.8
Do. " "	1897	15.2
Do. " "	1896	12.8
England & Wales	1898	19.6
Births per 1,000 of population	1898	31.1
Do. " "	1897	28.6
Do. " "	1896	27.2
England & Wales	1898	29.4
Deaths per 1,000 from Zymotic Diseases	1898	.48
Do. " "	1897	.48
Do. " "	1896	1.1
England & Wales	1898	2.22
Deaths of Infants under one year per 1,000	1898	117.1
Do. " "	1897	58.2
Do. " "	1896	50.
England & Wales	1898	161.

I desire to make a comment on the statistics of deaths for those under 1 year, which you will notice is higher than either of the previous ones, out of the 15 deaths of infants under 1 year, 5 were premature births. 1 was due to Abdominal Tuberculosis, 1 Influenza, 3 Bronchitis, 1 Diarrhoea, 1 Natural Causes, 1 Hepatitis, 1 Dyspepsia and Gastritis, 1 Laryngitis,- these are diseases of childhood and are not due to defects of sanitary supervision.

The following Table gives the ages of the persons who died during 1898.

Under 1 Year	15
One and under 5 years	2
Five and under 15 years	0
Fifteen and under 25 years	4
Twenty five & under 65 years	12
Sixty five and upwards	28
Total	61

The following Table shows the number and nature of cases of infectious diseases which occurred in the district during 1898. I can on reference to my reports give an opinion as to the probable source of infection in each case on the best evidence obtainable.

	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Typhoid
No. of Houses infected	1	3	1
No. of persons attacked	1	3	2
No. of Deaths	0	1	0

Typhoid Fever

These cases were imported into the District and confined to one house.

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Scarlet Fever

The one case was mild in character and as a consequence of the pains taken to see that all sanitary precautions were carried out, it was a solitary case, although there were other children in the house.

Diphtheria

These cases were due to insanitary surroundings which were at once remedied.

Erysipelas

A few cases were as usual reported, they were for the most part scattered and isolated cases.

In every outbreak the necessary precautions for personal isolation etc. are enjoined by word of mouth and by leaving printed plain directions how to prevent the spread of infection.

I have had occasion during 1898 to recommend the closure for a short time of Burrington School owing to an outbreak of Influenza and to recommend the exclusion of certain pupils from attending Downton School owing to their suffering from a Disease of the Skin.

AN ACCOUNT OF THE SANITARY WORK

During the past year I have at certain periods or as occasions required inspected your district in order to keep myself informed as to conditions injurious to health existing therein. Wherever I have found any local sanitary defect, I have made careful notes and called the attention of the Sanitary Inspector to the same.

The following is an account of the Sanitary Work for the Year 1898 in the Wigmore Rural District furnished by the Sanitary Inspector:-

No. of Houses visited	65
Nuisances abated	23
Houses in bad repair	3
New drains or old ones reconstructed	6
New Closets or old ones repaired	7
Bad Water	4
Accumulations	2
Over crowding	Nil
Animals kept to be a nuisance	1

Housing of the Working Classes

With reference to the Cottages in your district although a great deal has been done during 1898 to remedy sanitary defects, there is still more to be done. The older cottages are often embedded and inclined to be damp which is aggravated by a deficiency of proper spouting, a provision which has a double sanitary advantage, viz. preventing dampness and providing water. Most of the houses have drains of some kind to carry off liquid matter, but in many instances they are very imperfect with uneven channels favouring accumulations. The closets are being gradually remedied but many are still imperfect, owing to badly constructed pits. With reference to the Cottages, I wish to point out what is a serious defect in some of them, namely, the want of a suitable place to keep food, the pantry being in many instances a dark recess in some corner of the living room and often without ventilation or light

Wigmore Sewerage

I regret to have again to refer in my Annual Report to this important matter, and trust that some further action may be

taken, for until some efficient system of sewerage is carried out, a great deal of sanitary work stands in abeyance, and now that vaccination has been made to a certain extent, optional, should an imported case of small-pox occur in the village it would undoubtedly become epidemic owing to improper sanitary surroundings which in many instances cannot be remedied without a main sewer.

I may mention that the anti-vaccinationists argument is that improved sanitary conditions are a sufficient prevention against small-pox without vaccination and if there is anything in this, it seems to me that there is a greater necessity for sewerage then ever.

Over crowding

I am glad to say that there is very little over crowding in your district, in every case where it has been known to exist, notice has been given to the Sanitary Inspector and such a state of things has been remedied.

Public Wells and Water Supply

The compulsory provision of a source of wholesome water (except in newly erected houses) is in the absence of water works, a very difficult matter especially when there are groups of houses and isolated Cottages. In these neighbourhoods the only supply is obtainable by well sinking, improved arrangements for carriage and storage reservoirs, As I have stated in my previous Annual Reports "The provision of an accessible and wholesome source of drinking water, is one of the most important duties of a Sanitary Authority".

There is one village in your district which especially demands an efficient water supply, viz., the village of Leinthall Earls.

I wish to draw your attention to the necessity of the adoption of the Milkshops, Cowsheds and Dairies Order of 1885, and when I state that "the mortality of children under 1 year old from abdominal tuberculosis has increases, the increase going hand-in-hand with the increased consumption of cows milk" you will see how necessary it is, that every precaution should be taken to ensure healthy and pure milk.

Burial Grounds

The Wigmore Burial Ground is in the process of formation and the Leintwardine Burial Ground will I hope be shortly commenced.

I append the usual tabular statements of sickness and mortality during the year 1898.

I have the honour to be

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

John Cartwright

Mos Off. Health